

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hall, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I apologize to Senator Vrtiska. I was unaware also that Senator Abboud was not going to be here. Senator Abboud cosponsored along with Senator Coordsen the substitute amendment that is hopefully going to become the bill. The committee amendments and the bill as it was originally introduced dealt with a policy change of moving unemployment benefits to an average of the weekly wage, much like we did in the workmen's comp or workers' comp issue, rather, last year. This bill was advanced from committee. Because of problems with the change in the concept, most particularly coming from the chamber of commerce, I agreed to shift the concept of the bill back to its companion bill which is LB 285 which did not come out of committee, so that it's just going to be an increase if the substitute amendment is adopted for purposes of extending the table. So it would follow along with what we have traditionally done in the past. In order to do that, in order to get to that amendment, we would first have to vote no on the committee amendments as Senator Vrtiska pointed out and at this point I will just ask the body to do that so we can move forward. I know there are a number of other amendments on the bill and hopefully we can walk through that process to get to the amendment that we can debate. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Vrtiska, a closing?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would just ask that you oppose the amendments as placed in there and move the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question now is the adoption of the committee amendments. Those wanting the committee amendments adopted vote green, those not wanting to see the committee amendments adopted vote red. All those so instructed please vote. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 0 ayes, 15 nays on the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are not adopted.